THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • WEDNESDAY • MAY 14, 2025 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 20 • LATE CITY EDITION

SAUDI TO BUY $142 BN WORTH ARMS FROM U.S.

"THE UNITED STATES AND SAUDI ARABIA SIGNED THE LARGEST DEFENCE SALES AGREEMENT IN HISTORY," THE WHITE HOUSE SAID | P12

- The deal was inked during US President Donald Trump's visit to Saudi, the first foreign tour in his 2nd term
- Trump and Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, also signed a host of bilateral pacts

Trump and Saudi Crown Prince bin Salman | AP/PTI

- After interacting with the 39-year-old crown prince, Trump said: "I really believe we like each other a lot"

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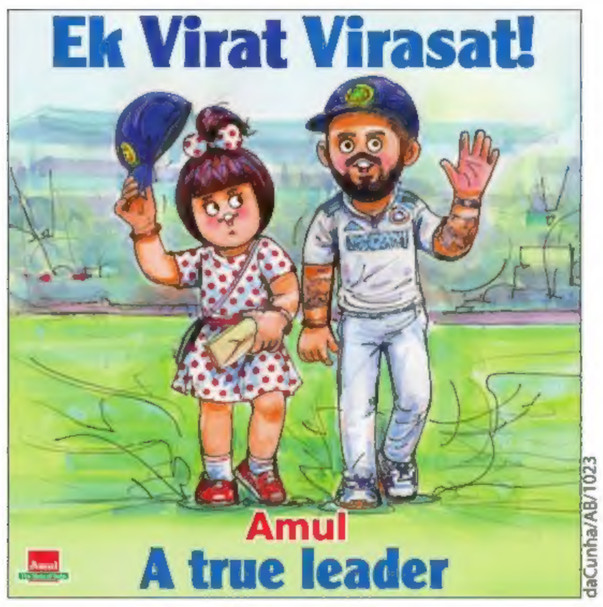

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

3 terrorists killed in J&K

Three Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorists, including its top commander Shahid Kuttay, were killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district on Tuesday, officials said

Normal flight ops from Thu

As disruption in flight operations continues, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said airlines would resume their normal operations to the 32 closed airports from May 15, when the NOTAM ends

Pak spy expelled

India on Tuesday declared an official at the Pak High Commission in New Delhi persona non grata. The staffer — not an officer — has been ordered to leave in 24 hours after being caught spying

Modi makes Adampur point to call out Pak propaganda

Visits airbase Islamabad claimed it had destroyed along with S-400 battery

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

CLEARLY exposing Pakistan's lie that it destroyed Indian Air Force's Adampur airbase in Punjab, which houses the S-400 air defence system, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday visited the airbase and interacted with the soldiers.

"What you have achieved is unprecedented, unimaginable and amazing," Modi told the airmen in his first speech to the armed forces since Operation Sindoor, with an S-400 missile defence system in the backdrop.

Pakistan had claimed it had inflicted significant damage on the Adampur airbase and destroyed the S-400 air defence system there.

The PM's presence at the airbase debunked Pakistan's tall claims. Upon arriving at the airbase in the morning, Modi engaged with air warriors and soldiers in full public view.

He walked near fighter jets ready for deployment, with the S-400 system on standby, within a fully operational and normal-looking base.

"He came, walked openly on airbase, interacted with the air warriors and conquered their hearts," said a senior official.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi | PTI

'No place in Pakistan is safe for terrorists'

In a dire warning to terrorists, Modi said, "There will be only one consequence of killing innocents: destruction, total annihilation". Terrorists may have Pak army protection, but there's no place where they can feel safe, he added

The prime minister's visit, a day after his address to the nation, delivered yet another powerful message to the international community—laying bare Pakistan's falsehoods while cautioning it against any future misadventures.

"Interacted with the air warriors and soldiers at AFS Adampur. Their courage and professionalism in protecting our nation are commendable," Modi later wrote on X.

Never discussed trade with the US during Op Sindoor: Foreign office

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

THE external affairs ministry asserted on Tuesday that trade was never discussed with the US during Operation Sindoor, where the might of Indian armed forces compelled Pakistan to seek a ceasefire, and that India will suspend the Indus Waters Treaty until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably ends its support for cross-border terrorism.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said: "Now, as per the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) decision of 23 April, India will keep the Treaty in abeyance until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism. Please also note that climate change, demographic shifts and technological changes have created new realities on the ground."

> **There is now a new normal. The sooner Pakistan gets used to it, the better**
>
> Randhir Jaiswal, MEA spokesperson

As for the issue of trade, it did not come up in any of the discussions with the US, Jaiswal said rebutting claims made by President Donald Trump of how he had used the issue of trade as a leverage to broker a 'full and immediate ceasefire' between India and Pakistan. He reiterated that it was Pakistan which had approached India for a ceasefire after it was rattled by the force of Indian strike at its air bases.

EXPRESS READ

Retail inflation eases to 6-year low in April

New Delhi: Retail inflation eased to a nearly six-year low of 3.16% in April mainly due to subdued prices of vegetables, fruits, pulses, and other protein-rich items, creating enough room for the Reserve Bank to go for another round of rate cut in the June monetary policy review | P13

Justice BR Gavai to be sworn in as CJI today

New Delhi: Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai will be sworn in as the 52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI) on Wednesday. Justice Gavai, who will be the first Buddhist CJI, will have a tenure of six months and nine days. The incumbent CJI, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, retired on Tuesday.

Now, India plans to strike US with retaliatory tariffs

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

INDIA has notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) about its plans to impose retaliatory tariffs on select US metal imports in response to Washington's protectionist tariffs on steel, aluminium and related products. India's decision to end concessions for the US will effect an increase in import tariffs on selected products originating in the US. The countermeasures could come into effect as early as June 8, 2025, unless consultations are initiated or the US withdraws its safeguard tariffs.

The notice was filed on May 12 under Article 12.5 of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards, which allows retaliation when a member imposes safeguard measures without adequate notification.

India has estimated the US tariffs have affected $7.6 billion in Indian exports, resulting in an additional $1.91 billion in duties. It, therefore, now plans to impose retaliatory tariffs.

India's move targets US duties that have been in place since 2018, and recently extended via presidential proclamations on February 10, 2025.

Although imposed under the guise of national security, India argues these tariffs are de facto safeguard measures that violate WTO rules. It further contends the US failed to fulfil its obligations under Article 12.3, which mandates prior consultations.

Goyal to visit US for trade talks

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will lead a team of officials to Washington starting May 17 for talks with US on the proposed bilateral trade agreement

NEVER FORGET

'Sindoor' tattoos a rage among Hampi youth

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR
@ Hosapete

HOW to wear patriotism on your sleeve? Hampi and Hosapete seem to have an answer.

In the wake of India's awe-inspiring response, 'Op Sindoor', hitting terrorist bases in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir as well as in the heartland of Pakistan, college students in these towns have set an example for the country's youth to emulate--tattoo the iconic words 'Sindoor' on their arms.

The trend is not just limited to locals. Many foreign tourists, including Israelis, have applied 'Sindoor,' on their arms, in an apparent tribute to the brave Indian soldiers who brought Pakistan to its knees in retribution to the dastardly Pahalgam terrorist attack late April.

The tattoo shops in the towns are doing brisk business. The cost starts from Rs 600 and goes up to Rs 1,500 depending on the size of the etching. The colour of the etching depends on skin tone, said Ganesh N, one of the tattooists.

Some of the youth said they will have 'Sindoor' etched as temporary tattoos while others swear they will keep them for ever. CONTINUED ON P4

A youth with an 'Operation Sindoor' tattoo. Tattoo shops in Hampi and Hosapete are doing brisk business

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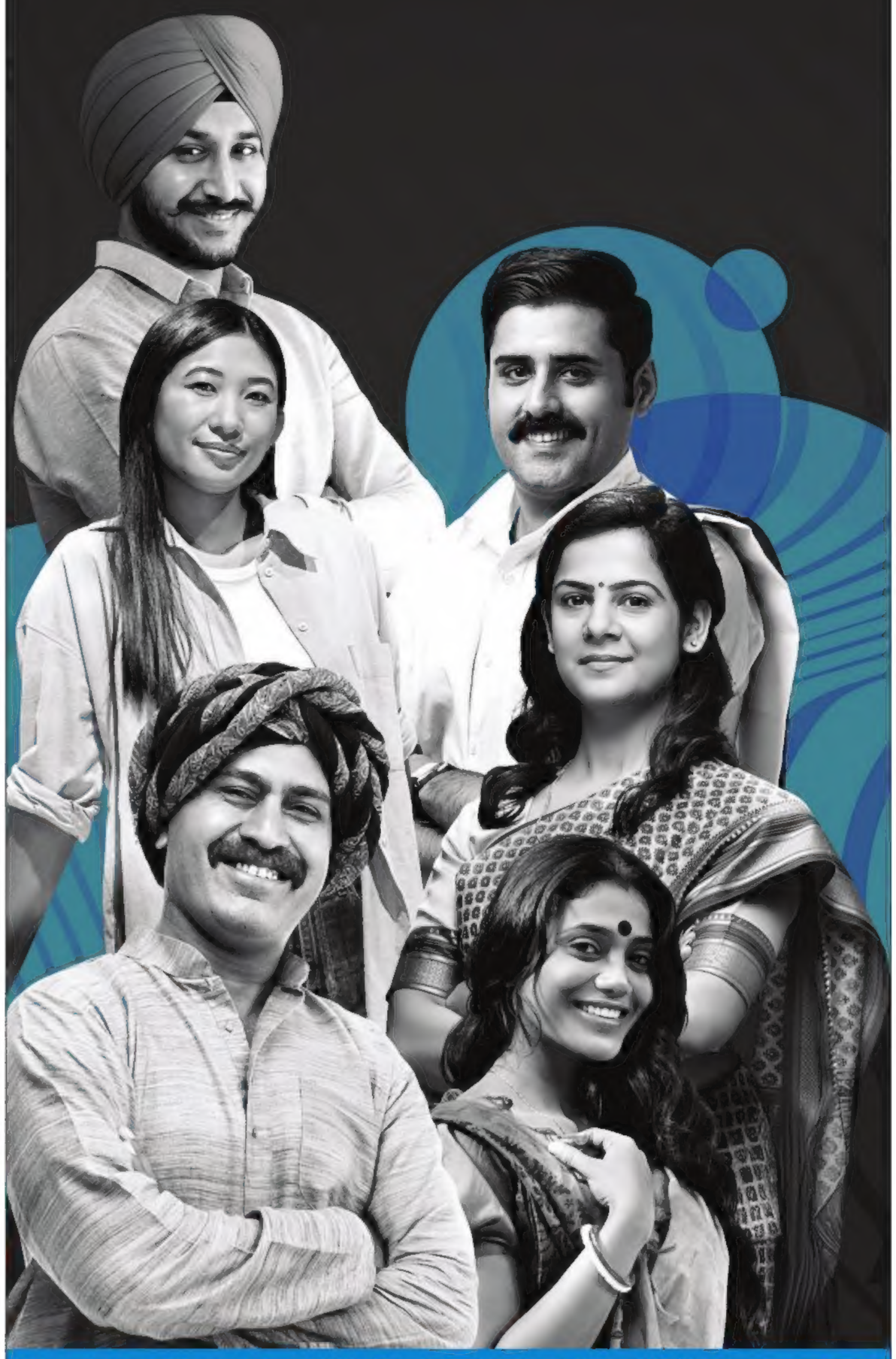

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